

City Council Meeting Minutes

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026 – 6:00 PM
COLUMBIA CITY, CITY HALL – 1840 SECOND STREET
CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY, COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

AGENDA ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

CONVENED:

Mayor Alex Reed called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Alex Reed
Council President Connie Quick
Councilor Gordon Thistle
Councilor Lyle Bluhm

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

Kim Karber, City Administrator/Recorder
Mary Goodwin, Police Officer

ATTORNEY PRESENT:

None

A quorum was present, and due notice had been published.

AGENDA ITEM 2 PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None

Mayor Reed made an amendment to the agenda. He added the fire station as a topic for discussion and moved it to the top of the agenda.

Fire Station

Mayor Reed discussed the information received from ODOT that access onto Highway 30 between A Street and E Street is restricted. Councilor Thistle stated he would like to talk to Chief Smythe regarding the access as it was his understanding they would be able to get access. Kim added that after talking with ODOT the access is restricted and there are no exceptions, not even for fire stations. She explained that she had not moved forward with putting the fire station survey together given this latest information and the understanding from previous Council discussions about not having direct access from the Highway was a deal breaker and wanted guidance on the next steps.

MOTION: MOVED (THISTLE), SECONDED (BLUHM) TO PUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND PROJECT ON HOLD UNTIL FURTHER INFORMATION IS OBTAINED ABOUT THE ENTRANCE/EXIT ONTO THE HIGHWAY.

MOTION PASSED (4-0). AYE (REED, THISTLE, QUICK, BLUHM)

AGENDA ITEM 3 CITIZEN INPUT:

3.1 Patricia Valpiani – Alley Issue

Patricia Valpiani discussed her concern about when the neighbor above her pressure-washes the water comes into her garage. Another concern she discussed was after 1st Street was paved there was a ditch in the right of way, and she was afraid on an icy day a car may end up in the ditch, or someone walking might end up in the ditch, so she and her

husband bought a yard of gravel and filled in the ditch. She stated she does not want reimbursed but wants to know if someone will help kill the weeds that are on the street and in the right of way because she does not know what to use that is legal.

3.2 Alexandria Smith – Bundy Park

Alexandria Smith discussed the data she gathered from the petition they worked on. Over three months they surveyed 251 households in Columbia City, about 30%. Opposed to the fire station was 227 households, 90%, in favor of the fire station was 24 households, 10%. She noted the numbers were based on households and not residents. Alexandria also discussed concerns about the specific acreage and number of trees that would be impacted and encouraged Council to visit Bundy Park to show where the proposed station would be situated, if plans move forward.

3.3 Lisa Iverson – Donating Park/Fire Station

Lisa Iverson stated she sent a letter to Council with most of what she wanted to say but has some additional things to say. She was curious about the process the Council has designed around the big decision of donating land to the fire station when the idea is unpopular among the neighbors. She believes it is the responsibility of the Council to create a thoughtful and data driven process. She hopes that if the process moves forward more information is dispersed to the residents. Lisa stated her concerns with discussions that were had with the fire station and questioned the ethics of it. She thinks if the discussion moves forward, it should be put on a ballot. It is an asset that belongs to the citizens and has great value to the citizens as it stands. She also stated she knows being on Council is a generous donation of time and understands that Council does not enjoy being micromanaged about this subject. She thanked them for their service and knows it requires a lot of responsibility for making these kinds of decisions and it is important that all the people get educated and decisions are made carefully and in collaboration with constituents.

3.4 Paulette Lichatowich – Home addresses

Paulette Lichatowich stated her concern with publishing the home addresses of the individuals who speak at Council meetings. She thinks it is a personnel safety issue and requested that in the minutes going forward they do not include the home addresses of audience speakers.

3.5 Citizen input on Bundy Park/Fire Station

- Robert Bainbridge stated regardless of whether it is a fire station or a bar, it does not belong in our parks. The parks are something volunteers have given countless hours to maintain and build. They are for future generations to have and use.
- James Bundy spoke on behalf of his family and stated none of them advocate for the fire station and it should stay as is, like his grandfather Jim would have wanted it, as a place for the community to enjoy nature in Columbia City.

3.6 Logan Gilbert-Renner

Logan Gilbert-Renner commented on leaving the council position open and said some of the applicants have consistently been to previous meetings and are dedicated residents. He referenced the Charter stating vacancies are filled by Council appointment and three of the current Councilors were appointed before being voted in. There is more of a chance of split votes with a Council of four. He asked that the applicants be looked at and appoint someone to the open council position. He then voiced his agreement with not having home addresses printed in the meeting minutes.

AGENDA ITEM 4

COUNCIL REPORTS:

4.1 Audit Committee: Councilor Quick reported that she attended the audit committee meeting. It was a two-hour meeting, and she said the ladies are dedicated and do a very thorough job. She was impressed.

4.2 Hazard Committee: Councilor Quick reported that two members, Logan and Jazzmin, said they were going to 'map the neighborhood' during the Celebration to see if

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there were people interested in having neighborhood groups get together to get to know one another and see how that can move forward. They also discussed what else was supposed to be at the Prepare Fair. The HAM radio folks were supposed to be there, but we did not see them. The next meeting is on August 25th. Mayor Reed said he thought there was going to be more at the Celebration, including an information booth on the police levy, which he thinks was a big missed opportunity. Councilor Quick agreed and was not sure what happened. Councilor Bluhm inquired if there were more opportunities coming up to do something like that. Councilor Thistle suggested the newsletter and noted there are signs that can be put out. Mayor Reed said besides the newsletter it is nice to have personal interactions, especially with Jerry. Mayor Reed asked Officer Goodwin if she has had conversations with the people about the police levy. Officer Goodwin replied she has not gotten a lot of questions on the police levy. Mayor Reed is concerned because of what happened in the last election with the 911 dispatch levy and St. Helens.

Mike Raszewski said that he has spoken to a lot of citizens over the last few weeks and said no one had brought up the levy as an issue.

4.3 Parks Committee: Chair Bluhm reported the next meeting will be in September. Mayor Reed inquired about the Harvard Park grant. Kim replied that we still have not had any word.

4.4 Streets Committee: Kim reported the City received the Small City Allotment grant. There will be a streets meeting next week to discuss whether there are other projects that can be completed with what is leftover in the budget. Councilor Quick inquired when the grant was submitted and who completed it. Kim explained it was due in March and Micah had completed the grant.

4.5 Water & Sewer Committee: Kim reported the request for proposal on septic tank pumping is due 8/21 and there is currently only one proposal turned in. The committee will then meet to go over the proposals to make a recommendation on who to award the contract to.

AGENDA ITEM 5

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 5.1 Bills paid with check numbers 36121 through 36169 during the month of July 2026.
- 5.2 Expense vs Budget Report for the month ending July 31, 2026.
- 5.3 Activity Report from the City Administrator for the month of July 2026.
- 5.4 Activity Report from the Public Works Superintendent for the month of July 2026.
- 5.5 Activity Report from the Chief of Police for the month of July 2026.
- 5.6 Combined Balance Sheet for the month ending July 31, 2026.
- 5.7 Minutes of the July 16, 2026, City Council Workshop Meeting.
- 5.8 Minutes of the July 16, 2026, City Council Meeting.
- 5.9 Minutes of the August 10, 2026, City Council Workshop Meeting.
- 5.10 Minutes of the June 23, 2026, Hazard Committee Meeting.
- 5.11 Minutes of the February 10, 2026, Audit Committee Meeting.

THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE CONSENT AGENDA BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

AGENDA ITEM 6

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

6.1 Glass Drop Box

Kim talked with Waste Management regarding a drop box for glass recycling. It would be a 20-yard box and would cost \$220 each time it is hauled plus \$67 per ton. The guesstimate on cost was about \$440 each time it gets hauled for dumping. For a box of that size, it looks like the only place it could be located would be by the Community Hall, which would take away parking spaces. It is unknown how often it would need to be hauled. Since

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there is already a free recycling glass drop box at the transfer station, consensus was not to move forward.

6.2 Council Position

Councilor Quick clarified that the consensus was that Council would wait until the November election and then appoint a councilor to the open position.

MOTION: MOVED (THISTLE), SECONDED (BLUHM) TO WAIT TO FILL THE OPEN COUNCIL POSITION BASED ON THE NOVEMBER ELECTION RESULTS, WHICH WOULD THEN BE OFFICIAL IN JANUARY.

MOTION PASSED (4-0). AYE (REED, THISTLE, QUICK, BLUHM)

AGENDA ITEM 7

NEW BUSINESS:

7.1 Review the League of Oregon Cities Legislative Priorities and Select the City's Top Five Choices for Submittal.

After some council discussion it was decided the five priorities they would like to submit to the League of Oregon Cities are:

- Support Responsible Municipal Use of Technology
- Support Municipal Cybersecurity Proficiency
- Public Meetings Law Clarity
- Alcohol Revenue Modernization
- Emergency Communication System Resources

7.2 Council Bill No. 26-1031: A Resolution Assessing Abatement Costs, Fees and Accrued Interest as a Lien Against Vacant Property Described as Map and Tax Lot 5128-AB-00300, Tax Account Number 14309, Property Located at 2205 Second Street Within the City of Columbia City, Oregon, Currently Under the Ownership of Secured Utility Irrevocable Express Trust, Cameron Robert Vanlom Owner as Trustee.

MOTION: MOVED (THISTLE), SECONDED (QUICK), TO ADOPT COUNCIL BILL 26-1031.

MOTION PASSED (4-0). AYE (REED, THISTLE, QUICK, BLUHM)

7.3 Council Bill No. 26-1032: A Resolution Assessing Abatement Costs, Fees and Accrued Interest as a Lien Against Vacant Property Described as Map and Tax Lot 5128-AC-00801, Tax Account Number 14365, Property Located at 2050 Third Street Within the City of Columbia City, Oregon, Currently Under the Ownership of Nathan Thilavan.

MOTION: MOVED (THISTLE), SECONDED (QUICK), TO ADOPT COUNCIL BILL 26-1032.

MOTION PASSED (4-0). AYE (REED, THISTLE, QUICK, BLUHM)

7.4 Small City Allotment Grant between the State of Oregon Department of Transportation and the City of Columbia City for Multiple Street Paving Projects.

MOTION: MOVED (QUICK), SECONDED (BLUHM), TO APPROVE THE SIGNATURE OF THE GRANT BETWEEN THE STATE OF OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY.

MOTION PASSED (4-0). AYE (REED, THISTLE, QUICK, BLUHM)

ITEM 8

OTHER BUSINESS:

8.1 Patricia Valpiani – Alley Issue

Mayor Reed opened discussion with Patricia about her alley issue to get an understanding of the situation. She showed him the area of the alley and stated water comes from the alley and goes into their garage. Kim explained that Patricia does sit lower than the alley way and she had talked to Micah, with Public Works, about her concern. Micah regraded

the alley to help but there has not been any rain since then. When the rain returns, we will see how it does. Also, it was explained to Patricia that if there is any work done in the Right-of-Way (ROW), a permit needs to be applied for and 811 should be called so all utilities get marked. Mayor Reed again asked what the issue was and Patricia stated she wanted water to stop coming into her garage. She also stated that 'they' said they were working on the alleys and she wanted to know how many had been done since April. Kim clarified that no alleyways will be paved in the City. Councilor Thistle requested Micah to go back out and relook at the situation. Mayor Reed inquired why she would need to call 811 and need a permit. Kim explained that anytime anyone is going to dig, whether in the ROW or on private property 811 should be called. Also, if work is going to be done in the ROW a permit needs to be filled out and the permit is free. Mayor Reed asked Patricia if she had heard the explanation about the permit and she said yes and that she also heard that explanation last week and this week. He then asked if she had applied for the permit and she stated she had not. He stated that if she obtained a permit that would give her more leeway to do something such as a barrier or French drain. She then questioned about having to pay for it and her taxes not covering it. Mayor Reed stated government is not going to solve everything in life, but this is an opportunity since 811 was already called and the permit is free. Patricia requested someone to come out to see what was going on. Mayor Reed said he would come out to her house tomorrow to look at things.

8.2 Home Addresses in Council Minutes

Mayor Reed opened discussion on the home addresses being printed in the Council minutes. Kim explained that it is current procedure for the City to ask for the name and address of people who speak at meetings and then that information is added to the minutes. She stated there would still be record of the address on the sign in sheet. Councilor Quick said she agreed with Paulette and stated that it is dangerous anymore. Councilor Thistle agreed.

MOTION: MOVED (THISTLE), SECONDED (QUICK), TO EXCLUDE THE HOME ADDRESSES OF SPEAKERS FROM THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS GOING FORWARD.

MOTION PASSED (4-0). AYE (REED, THISTLE, QUICK, BLUHM)

8.3 City/County Dinner

Kim stated it is Columbia City's turn to host. They are usually held on Tuesdays as this is the day more people are able to attend. Councilor Thistle recommended holding it at the Elks. October 6th is the preferred date for Council, but September 29th will also work. Kim will check with the Elks on price, availability, and report back.

AGENDA ITEM 9

ADJOURNMENT:

9.1 There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.

APPROVED:

Alexander Reed
Mayor

ATTEST:

Kim Karber
City Administrator/Recorder